than the prevailing market price on which NCCF would have had to dispose of the same in the local market. The balance quantity of rain affected stocks was in fact sold locally@ Rs. around 2200/-PMT.

(c) This is being ascertained.

(d) The NCCF have filed a case in the High Court of Delhi against the Insurance Co. and the matter is *sub-judice*. Therefore no enquiry or investigation is possible at present.

Blind persons in the country

3179. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of blind persons in the country as at present;

(b) whether Government propose to secure jobs in the Government services as well as Central and State public undertakings and the private sectors; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) During 1981 National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a country-wide sample survey on disabled persons to arrive at reasonably accurate estimates of incidence and prevalence of disability in the country. According to this report it is estimated that 3.47 million persons were suffering from visual disabilities in the country.

(b) and (c) 1% Vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' have been reserved in the Central Government Services and comparable posts in Central public Undertakings for the Visually Handicapped. Majority of State Governments/Union Territories have also extended similar reservations in States Services. In addition special employment exchanges, special Cells in normal Employment Exchanges, Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for physically handicapped have been set up through out the country for rehabilitation of handicapped including the blind. Through other various schemes/programmes handicapped including blind are benefited in self-employment ventures such as allotment of shops, kiosks by States/ Union Territories and loans given by the banks.

Reservation of jobs in educational institutions for disabled persons

3180. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Federation of blinds has demanded a National law on reservation of jobs and seats in the Educational institutions for the blinds and disabled;

(b) what action Government have taken on their demands;

(c) whether the Federation has made other demands; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) to (d) During 1987 Ministry of Welfare set up a Committee Under the Chairmanship of Shri Baharul Islam to suggest legislation for the welfare of handicapped. The Committee had suggested certain constitutional amendments, reservation in employment both in public and private sector, vocational training institutions, certain miscellaneous provision inludings fiscal concessions and special pay to the teachers etc. National Federation of the Blind, a Voluntary organisation is demanding legislation in the areas suggested by the Baharul Islam Committee.